

5-6-99

OPINION

Parents should be held responsible for their children's actions.

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FEATURE

Valley College professor Gail Brown creates student life exhibits through photos.

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SPORTS

The Monarch baseball team prepares themselves for the last game of the Western State Conference against Pierce.

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The Los Angeles Valley



www.lavc.cc.ca.us

VOLUME 52, ISSUE 10

SERVING VALLEY COLLEGE FOR 50 YEARS

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1999

CAMPUS SCENE

NURSES WEEK

•A celebration honoring the nursing profession will be held today from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in Monarch Hall.
•There will be an international luncheon with refreshments and entertainment.

KARAOKE

•Hillel will host a Karaoke party at their last Cafe Hillel of the semester today at 8 p.m.
•Cafe Hillel meets at 19720 Ventura Boulevard in Suite G.

SOCK HOP

•As part of the 50th anniversary celebration there will be a sock hop party on Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Monarch Hall.
•Admission will be \$1 at the door. There will be door prizes and contests.

UNIVERSITY REPS

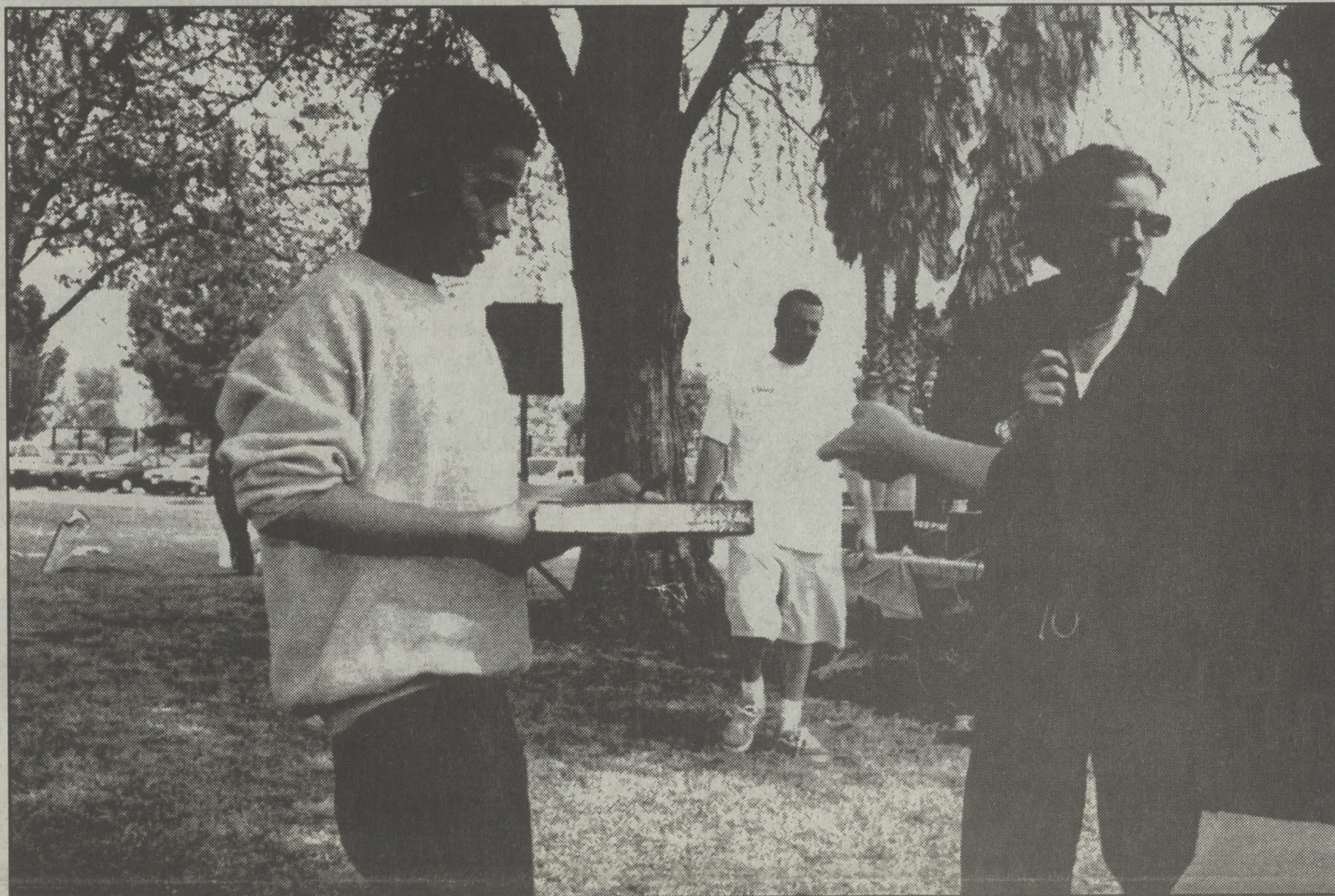
•Appointments to meet with university representatives can be made at the Career/ Transfer Center in Administration Room 126 or by calling (818) 947-2646.
•CSUN on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
•UCLA on Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon.

RECEPTION

•A reception for students admitted to University of California Los Angeles for Fall '99 will be held on Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. in Campus Center 104.

HIV TESTING

•Free HIV testing will be done on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Health Center.



Rod Lockett/ Valley Star

Food was served for the attendees of the "Team Up With Rydell" event that was held at Woodley Park on Sunday at 10 a.m.

Class participates in community program

By JAVIER MORELOS
STAR REPORTER

Valley College's Marketing 21 class held a "Team Up With Rydell" event on Sunday in Woodley Park.

The promotional event was created by the marketing class which went under the name Promotions Unlimited for the purposes of this project. The student run agency helped to raise awareness for the Rydell Automotive Group, an automotive dealership with several locations, and also teamed up with Communities in Schools/The L.A. Mentoring Partnership, a local organization that provides a mentoring program for junior high and high school students.

This program was made possible by the General Motors Internship which provides students with hands on experience while dealing with the marketing industry. The program was developed in 1991 and is used at colleges

across the country.

The students who participated, formed the agency which in turn split into six marketing departments. These departments were responsible for coordinating the event, researching data, publishing the data in report form, advertising the event, handling the events budget and working with public relations.

"The purpose of the event is to make the community aware of Rydell Motors," said Earl B. Neale, Jr., associate professor of business and instructor of the marketing 21 class.

To gather data necessary for pinpointing a target market and producing the event, Promotions Unlimited handed out surveys in different areas of the valley. To compile data for the event 363 surveys were used.

The event featured prize giveaways donated from several businesses such as Jamba Juice, Toys R' Us, Texas Instruments and Fry's Electronics. A few of the prizes raffled off were hotel accommodations for two, gift certificates, concert tickets and electronic items including a television, VCR and a stereo.

The off campus sight of Woodley Park was chosen because of its proximity to the Rydell dealership in Van Nuys and because of the space needed to display automobiles as well as to have room to set up booths and hold games. Several cars from the Rydell dealership were on display for the crowd that attended. Food was served for the attendees and activities which included face painting and crafts were held for the children of those attending.

The students in the marketing class learned many valuable skills necessary for careers in today's marketing field. Many companies look more than ever towards hands on experience. "By participating in this program, I learned how to manage business, manage events and I got to deal with people in a business environment," said Domenica Toledo, a student in the marketing 21 class and member of Promotions Unlimited.

Cinco de Mayo bash a success

By ANITA TORRES
STAR REPORTER

Music, dancing and food were all part of the Cinco de Mayo celebration presented by the Associated Student Union and Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan at Valley College Wednesday.

The celebration was held in Monarch Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and continued at 6 p.m. until 10.

Six different music and dancing groups performed and the audience was encouraged to participate.

"I liked performing here," said Oscar Rodriguez, a member of Mariachi Voz de America, one of the bands that performed at the event. "It was exciting. The crowd was pretty into it and

"I feel like Valley College finally got a response from an event."

*-Justine Lozano
ASU commissioner of cultural and ethnic affairs*

they were requesting songs for us to play."

At the evening portion of the celebration, there was catered food available for the guests.

"I feel like Valley College finally got a response from an event," said Justine Lozano, the ASU commissioner of cultural and ethnic affairs. "It was really good."

Papas and Beer Family Restaurant sponsored the event.

Crime watch

By JOHN MAROT
STAR REPORTER

Crimes for April 15 to May 5 at Valley College.

•**April 14:** There was a burglary from a car in Parking Lot B between 8:50 and 11 a.m.

•**April 20:** There was a burglary from a car at College Road South between 11 a.m. and noon.

•**April 26:** A cell phone was stolen from a car in Parking Lot b between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m.

•**April 29:** There was a suspicious fire at the Archery Range at about 3:45 p.m. There was a filed interrogation conducted on four possible suspects.

Information is provided by Campus Police. Campus Police is located in Bungalow 59.

50th graduation unlike any other

By NANCY BARAHONA
STAR REPORTER

With the celebration continuing that Valley College turned 50 this year the school is preparing a special 50th commencement with special memorabilia and guest speakers.

"The 50th anniversary is so special," Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services said. "The commencement ceremony is a milestone."

Delahoussaye added that their goal is to make everything nice for the students. "Everything is being done in a special way to commemorate the 50th," Delahoussaye said.

The memorabilia that will be available as part of Valley College celebrating 50 years include a stole that comes with the cap and gown that be purchased at the bookstore for \$34.95 plus tax. Delahoussaye

urges students to buy their caps and gowns because they run out quickly. Also for the first time there will be a class picture that will be put into the historical museum. The picture can be

"Everything is being done in a special way to commemorate the 50th,"

*-Yasmin Delahoussaye,
vice president student services*

ordered at the bookstore for \$13.75. And there will be a professional videotape of the ceremony that can be purchased for \$14.99 for the first 100 people and \$19.99 at regular price.

"The idea is to have a keepsake," Delahoussaye said.

The dignitary speakers at the ceremony will be Valley College graduate Richard Alarcon, California state senator and

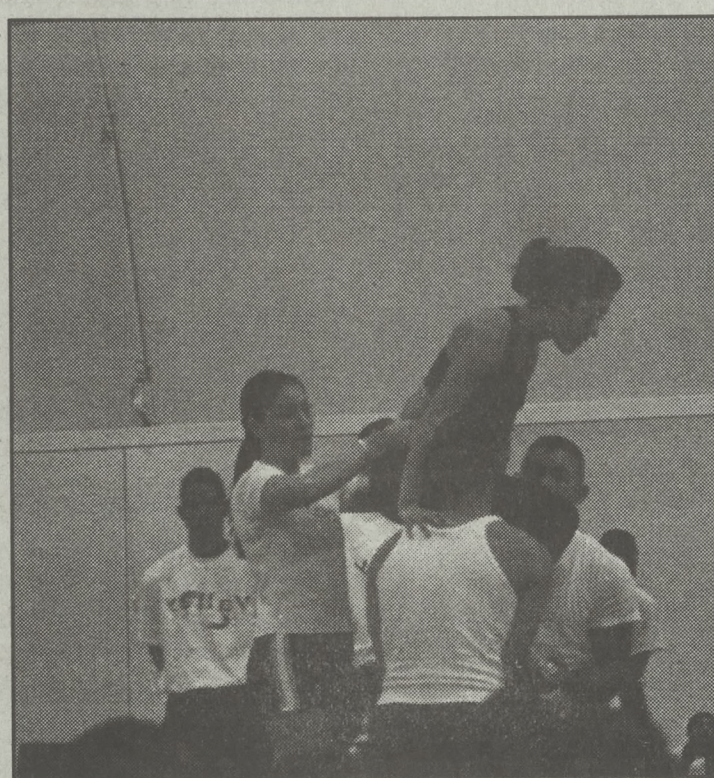
Robert Hertzberg, California state assemblyman. They were chosen because they represent the are, Delahoussaye said.

Amongst the 895 candidates for ceremony is the Associated Student Union president Armen Orujyan.

"I'm very happy about graduating," Orujyan said. "I'm sad about leaving Valley College." Orujyan will be one of the keynote speakers at the ceremony. "I greatly appreciate the opportunity that is given to me as a student speaker."

One of the faculty marshals that will be leading the faculty at the ceremony is Phil Clark. Clark has been teaching math at Valley College for 50 years.

Students participating in the ceremony need to report to Monarch Hall at 3:30 p.m. on May 20 for an orientation. Then they must be at Monarch Square at 3:45 p.m. for the class picture.



Miguel Vicente/ Valley Star

Cheers, dances, stunts and tumbling were taught to students interested in trying out for the Valley College cheer team on Monday and Wednesday. The next lesson will be on May 10 and the tryouts will be held on May 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Field House. Membership on the cheer team will earn students college credit. For more information call (818) 947-2698.



Thursday, May 6, 1999

Valley Star

Editorial...

The buck stops at the parent's door

Whenever anything goes wrong people always look to blame the media, the violence in movies and television and the explicit lyrics that can on occasion be heard in music.

Even though these could be contributing to the problems with today's youth, the main factor that is going to affect their actions is their parents.

Parents need to be responsible for properly raising a child with good values and morals. They need to be aware of what their children are doing, what type of things they are interested in and so forth until the child becomes old enough to be able to reason right from wrong.

So much of the blame is placed on the media because it

is such a powerful tool that can reach a lot of people. But that is all the media can do; inform the viewer.

The actions the viewer takes depends on their environment and the problems they may be having regardless of what they see on television.

If the violence in movies, such as "The Basketball Diaries," is

really to blame, then why is it that only one of the many thousands that saw the movie imitated it. It is more likely that a violent person was drawn to the movie rather than becoming violent after seeing the movie.

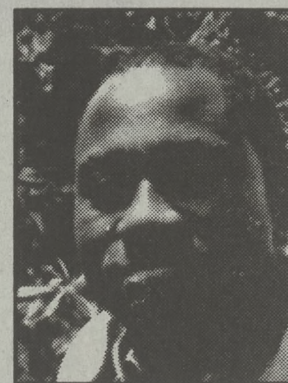
It is necessary to know what type of home life children are having instead of looking to blame elsewhere. Parents should be held responsible for the crimes their children commit, whether it be stealing or killing, because they are the ones that have the most control over their children's action.

If parents are to be held accountable when their child breaks a window, because it was their responsibility to teach them breaking a window is wrong, then they should also be held responsible if a child take a gun and kills someone.

If we really want to be safe and protect our children we must start taking small steps now to prevent crimes and meaningless deaths, instead of taking drastic measures in the future and having to attend the funerals of innocent victims.



Who or what do you think is to blame for school violence?



Probably the administrators because they don't give the students a chance to express themselves. Violence is nothing but bottled emotions that don't get a chance to be released.

Mike West



"Administrators are responsible because I think they ignore signs of behavior that could be dangerous."

Dreena Manos



"The government is to blame. With all their laws and restrictions they drive people to the brink of insanity. Also the lack of concern for feelings and emotions."

Patty "Blaze"

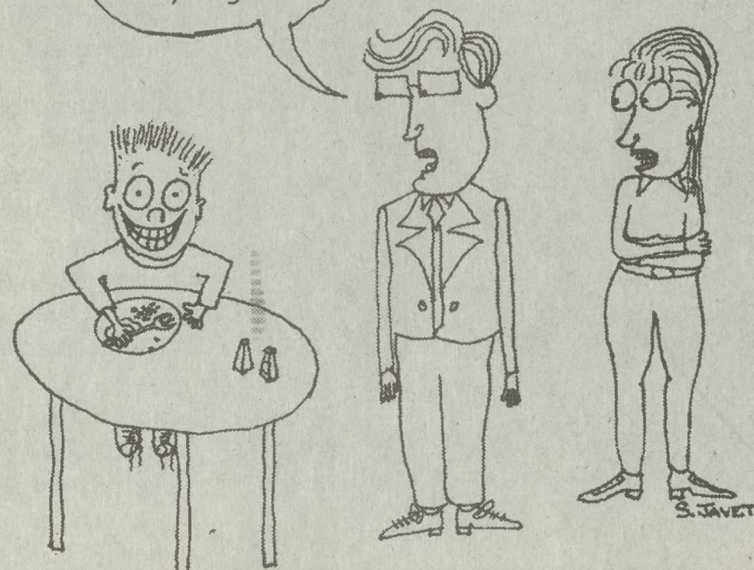


"The students are to blame for school violence. You can't blame schools because no matter what schools do, students will always be able to get guns; even on campus."

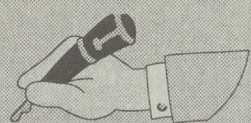
Joey Akkari

Kilolo Goodman/ Valley Star

If you eat all your veggies you can play with your gun.



Write us a letter!



The Valley Star would love to receive and, if possible, publish your letters. We reserve the right to condense letters for space considerations. Letters are limited to 250 words and are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist or sexually oriented denigrations. They must be signed and include the student's ID number. Letters may be left at the Valley Star in BJ 114 by Friday morning for the following Thursday. They can also be placed in any of our mailboxes attached to three of our yellow news stands, or e-mail to VSTAR@laccd.cc.ca.us.

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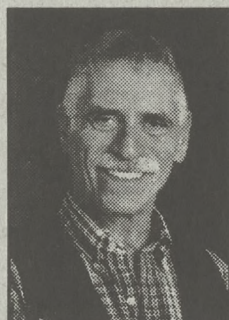
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The Senior Freshman...

Valley's plan for sensitivity training of its faculty is a tribute to good leadership



By JIM CARROZO
STAR REPORTER

We at Valley College are such a microcosm of the outside world, so diverse and yet so packed together, that when something really inappropriate surfaces in the personal attitudes and remarks of college employees, word gets around fast.

Two weeks ago, as I studied for a Soc 2 test, I read an excerpt from the "Educational Record," a magazine of higher education. In it college students speak out regarding on-campus bias. They cite acts which range from the most overt "racist, anti-Semitic, homophobic and sexist incidents" that most of us would find reprehensible, to the "one time remark that the speaker might consider humorous but the recipient perceives as a slur."

That one line in the article became a prophesy fulfilled when, as I was walking to my next class I was handed a flyer. "ATTENTION STUDENTS!" it proclaimed.

It encouraged attendance at "an open forum meeting," hosted by El Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan (MEChA) on April 21 to address grievances that some students have in regards to "a recent incident involving racist and sexist remarks among the administration."

I made note of it and went about my business. I had already heard about the incident in question, involving a politically incorrect ethnic epithet allegedly used by a student services assistant during a recent Career/Transfer Center meeting discussing placement tests for high school students interested in enrolling at Valley..

The term "wetback" was alleged to have

been used by the worker to describe undocumented students and it incensed some of the Hispanics who were present. Within days it was on the lips of every minority student, and became an "open secret" on campus. Bad news travels fast.

I attended the forum and listened as Dean of Student Affairs, Yasmin Dellahoussay addressed the group of thirty concerned students, and then listened to the opinions of some who had personally encountered racism in the school's hierarchy.

It was a very productive meeting and plans

"Bigots are like cockroaches on a kitchen counter. You'll never eliminate them entirely but when you expose them to the light they scurry back into the woodwork where they belong."

were made to have sensitivity training sessions for selected faculty members and to set up a student committee to document any future discriminatory problems.

Although the employee in question sent a hand written apology to President Wieder, many at the meeting felt the apology should go to the students at large and it was suggested that an open letter be published in the Star to assure the student body that the transgression was not intended to be discriminatory and that the offending employee is indeed sorry for his poor choice of words.

This being the final edition of the star, no such letter was forthcoming, leaving many to believe that because the semester is

almost over the administration is hoping the controversy will die on the vine.

In defense of the administration, I think President Wieder should be applauded for taking the positive steps she did in an effort to prevent such indiscretions in the future.

If the employee cannot bring himself to apologize properly, that suggests a flaw in his character and should not be laid at the feet of the administration.

At least the president has demonstrated the kind of openness that we must always cultivate in order to keep Valley the great institution that it is. Leaders often rely on advisors rather than the people they serve but she is very "hands on" and should be applauded.

Without her official condemnation of the incident, this relatively minor "faux pax," amounting to nothing more than a bad joke, might easily have turned into a "cause celebre," like Fuzzy Weller's "chicken dinner" comment about Tiger Wood.

I'm glad she met the problem head on because at its heart Valley is a very inclusive college. We are sometimes so over sensitive that we tend to label that which is merely thoughtless, as being hateful and that which is tasteless, as racist.

But that's not to say that we mustn't stay vigilant. We must always be watchful and meet every insult head-on with the greatest of all equalizers, light. Put it in the spotlight where everyone can see it all its ugliness.

Bigots are like cockroaches on a kitchen counter. You'll never eliminate them entirely, but when you expose them to the light they scurry back into the woodwork where they belong.

Have you had a personal experience where you feel you were being discriminated against? Let me know at SrFresh@aol.com, and together we can shine some light on it.

For Your Information:

The Valley Star is published by students of the Journalism and Photography classes. Editorial and Advertising Offices are located at 5800 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91401, (818) 947-2576. The College newspaper is published as a learning experience, offered under the college journalism instructional program. The editorial and advertising materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, are the responsibility of the student newspaper staff. Under appropriate state and federal court decisions these materials are free from prior restraint by virtue of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Accordingly, materials published herein, including any opinions expressed, should not be interpreted as the position of the Los Angeles Community College District, the college, or any office or employee thereof.



Valley Star

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Beyond 1,000 words...

Photography project captures life experiences of the young

By CATHY KOEBEL
STAR REPORTER

Free spirited, compassionate, and caring, Gail Brown, a Valley College photography instructor, has the innate ability to help youngsters express their life experiences, perceptions and values in both writing and photography.

Brown started working with students from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1995 and since 1997 is teaching young people at the Los Angeles Boys & Girls Club.

"These kids are tough," Brown said. "The photographs show the pressure and how confused they can be with no clear expectations of life. They live in a world which by its very nature and the color of their skin, defines them."

"Despite their toughness on the outside many of these kids show great promise and hope and should not be lumped together," Brown said.

The idea of helping youngsters began while she was working with troubled adolescent boys in New York. After coming to Los Angeles six years ago, she developed this ongoing project where she

teaches photography to preteens and teenagers in the surrounding community.

"I really like this," said George Maron a student of Brown's whom she has known for just over a year. "I'm learning something I didn't know about words, pictures and cameras."

The California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts provided Brown with the grant that made it possible for her to accomplish her goal of reaching disadvantaged children.

Brown's grant also enabled her to show her student's work at the Los Angeles Public Library.

The work entitled "From Where I'm Standing," a Photo-documentary project in East L.A., was shown from Dec. 12 through Feb. 12.

The exhibit included 15 original works documenting the students' lives. Each book of photographs was carefully created by Brown's students.

"The purpose of the photographic stories was to illuminate the complexity of these young lives," Brown said. "It involved their dreams, hopes, fears and growing up in two cultures."

"These kids are tough," Brown said. "The photographs show the pressure and how confused they can be with no clear expectations of life. They live in a world which by its very nature and the color of their skin, defines them."

—Gail Brown



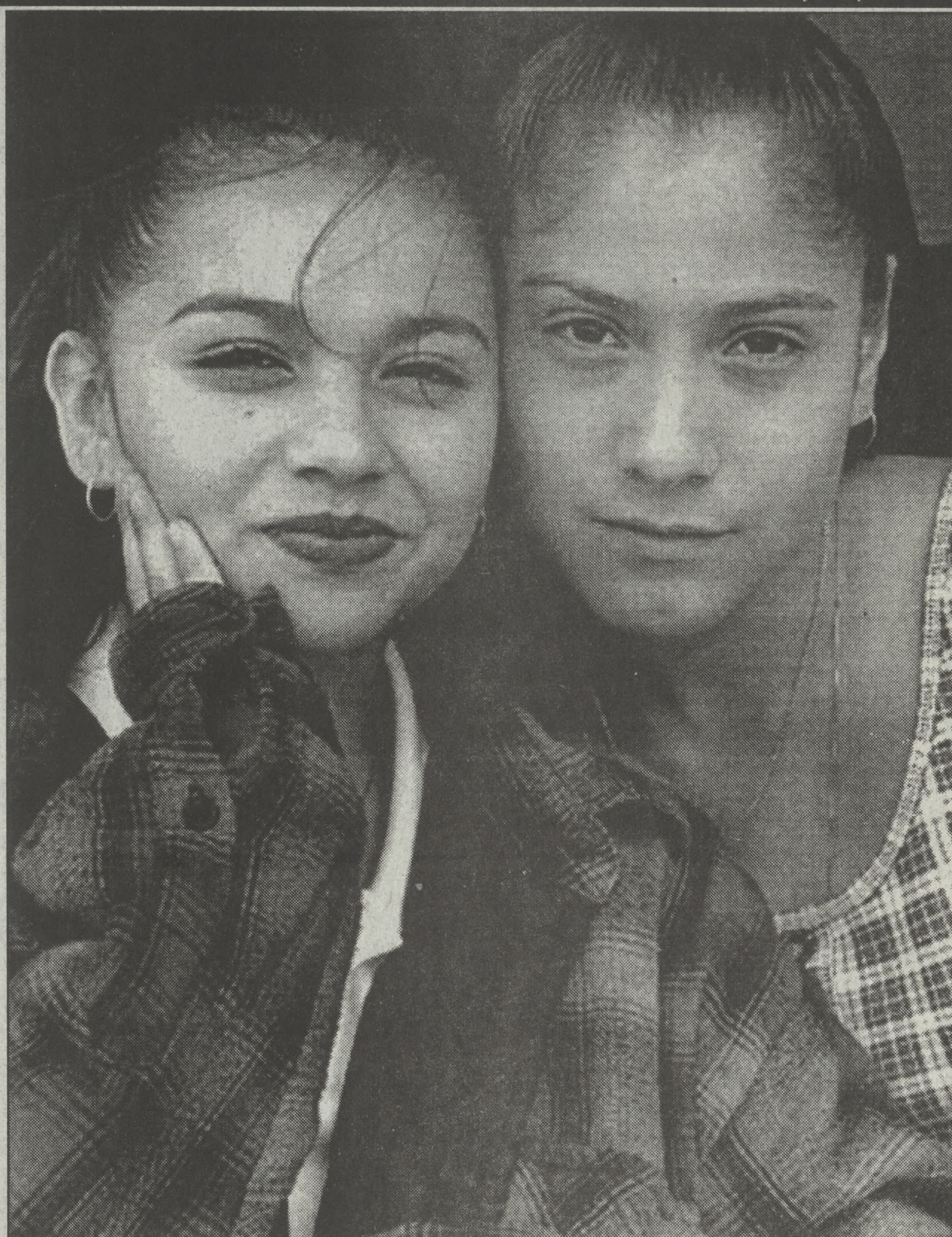
Cathy Koebel/Valley Star

An ongoing project, Brown spends much of her time critiquing student's photographs.

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Courtesy of Gail Brown

Claudia and Suzy from Woodrow Wilson High School, are two participants in Brown's project.

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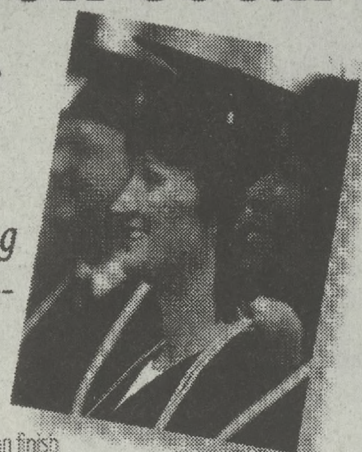
Miss out on earning three units for asking questions, enjoying campus events, watching sports, or taking pictures.

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For the Valley Star
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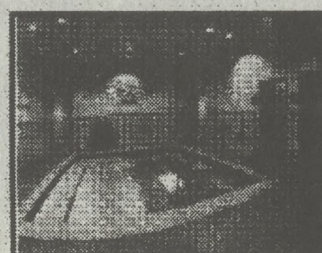
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Sunday, May 9th



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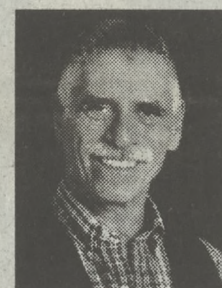
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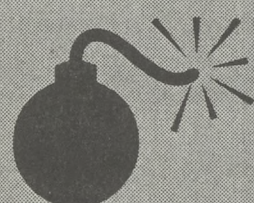
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CAMPUS CALENDAR

MAY • 1999

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	

(May 6-22)

FREE CINEMA SCREENINGS

-Saturday, May 15-

● "Citizen Kane"

- On the lawn between the Art building and the Theater Arts buildings
- 8 p.m.

-Saturday, May 22-

● "Student Film Projects"

- In the Little Theater
- 7:15 p.m.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT CAMPUS CONCERT SERIES

-Thursday, May 6-

● LAVC College Choir and Chamber Singers

- Dianne Wintrob and Nick Strimple, directors
- In the Music Recital Hall
- 11 a.m.

-Monday, May 10-

● LAVC Jazz Ensemble

- Woody James, director
- In Music Room 112
- noon

● LAVC Wind Ensemble

- Michael Mertens, director
- In the Little Theater
- 8 p.m.

-Tuesday, May 11-

● LAVC Philharmonic Choir Annual "pops" concert

- Nick Strimple, conductor
- In the Little Theater
- 8 p.m.



STUDENT ART SHOW

-Through May 12-

● "Student Work"

- Monday through Thursday
- 11a.m. to 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- In the Art Gallery



THEATER ARTS PLAY PRODUCTIONS

- May 6,7,8 -

● A Chorus Line

- Directed by Pete Parkin
- At the Little Theater
- Admission:
\$5 Students and Seniors
\$10 General
- Call (818) 947-2790

Guitar Ensemble gives last recital of semester

By JIM CAROZZO
STAR REPORTER

There was an air of confident expectation in the Music Department's Recital Hall last Sunday night as the audience gathered for a highly anticipated performance of the LAVC Classical Guitar Ensemble.

The 35 member ensemble, including 20 guitarists and a string orchestra, was conducted by program director Robert G. Mayeur with genuine passion and insight.

Under his steady baton, each section united with the others for a well blended program of fugues, sonatas, concertos and preludes, turning in virtually seamless performances.

Enjoying a lavish musical buffet from the works of Bach, Scarlatti, Vivaldi, Carulli, Von Call and Narvaez among others, the audience's expectations were well satisfied in this smartly paced program.

The opening, "Andante" by Leonard Von Call, set a lovely classical mood and the fluidity with which it was executed let the audience know that they were in good hands and that there was more to come.

A Fernando Carulli piece, "Rondo"



Kathy Lustig/Valley Star

Robert Mayeur passionately conducts the Valley College Guitar Ensemble in their final performance.

followed and was given a very respectable rendering by Michael Camp and Melissa Nazarian.

Scarlatti's "Sonata #20," arranged by Mayeur, was richly interpreted and was followed by the softly melodic "Prelude #1 in e minor," studiously delivered by Angel Cervantes.

Bach's "Fugue from the First Violin Sonata," proved to be an audience favorite. Its festive sound made it a valuable choice midway in the program.

A clever follow-up was an original composition by Mayeur entitled "Symphonie A L'Antique-Guitar Quartet," performed with loving care by the LAVC Guitar Quartet, Michael Camp, Greg Cohen, Michael Cross and Angel Cervantes.

It's a beautiful piece and the artists' understanding of its mood, which came through in the rendering, was quite evident.

Then, making a very special unbilled guest appearance, was Miguel Morales, a Cal State Northridge music major, who gave a crowd-pleasing rendition of Isaac

Albanez' "Granada."

The single most impressive artistry came from an unprepossessing student named Adrian San Vicente, who whipped off three complicated pieces by Narvaez, Bach and Barrios as if they were simple ditties that anyone could play. His dexterity, clarity and dynamics enhanced every piece. No nonsense. No decoration; just pure ability honed by hard work.

This dedication was obvious in the evening as a whole. All acquitted themselves quite admirably and proved once again the high standard of quality that has come to be expected of the Music Department.

The 15 piece orchestra added immeasurably to the success of the evening. Well tuned, with professional flair, they were the steady foundation of the ensemble.

Their spirited interpretation of Vivaldi's popular "Concerto in G Major" closed the evening and left the audience wanting more.

The concert was an overwhelming success and one more highlight of Valley College's spectacular 50th year.

New movie 'Get Real' stays true to reality

By JAVIER MORELOS
STAR REPORTER

Few movies are made that are able to touch the human spirit and tell a gripping tale about real life. However, there are some exceptions to this rule, such as the newly released film "Get Real," which opened locally last Friday.

Directed by Simon Shore and produced by Stephen Taylor, "Get Real" is based on the play "What's Wrong With Angry?" by Patrick Wilde.

The film is set in the upper middle class town of Basingstoke in England and tells the story of a group of teens dealing with adolescence.

The story focuses on the life of Steven Carter, a gay teen struggling with raging hormones, played by Ben Silverstone. He confides his homosexuality to his friend Linda, played by Charlotte Brittain.

While Linda provides a lot of the movie's comedy, she too has problems of her own. She is about to take her 48th driving lesson in an attempt to woo Bob, a driving instructor.

Steven's object of desire is the school's superachiever, John Dixon, played by Brad Gorton. John is seen as a god on campus, having been accepted to Oxford University and dating the town supermodel, Christina Lindmann. The film takes a twist when it is revealed that Steven's feelings for John are mutual.

However, while Steven feels that he wants to tell the world of their love, John demands that it be kept top secret and in the closet.

The story's climax takes the viewer to an emotional intensity as the truth is finally revealed. All false pretenses come crashing down, and Steven teaches the audience to deal with life and get real.

The story appeals to many viewers because of its universal theme. While the film may center around two gay teens, it tells the tale of the struggles of adolescence.

The film paints a vivid picture for many on what it was like to be young and in high school, dealing with sexuality, peers, the demands of parents and the burdens of being a teenager in today's society. "Get Real" is scheduled for nationwide release later this month.

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Monarch steals record

■ **Angie Arroyo steals WSC record as Valley College ends another softball season.**

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

Shortstop Angie Arroyo helped Valley College through what she calls a roller coaster season stealing herself a total of 19 bases, the most ever by any Monarch softball player and a new record for the Western State Conference.

"I didn't expect to be there," Arroyo said about putting her name along with Valley College's on the record books. "I was just out there stealing bases for my team."

Arroyo finished the season hitting a .330 batting average for the spring and a .317 average in WSC league play.

Arroyo has been playing softball since 1994 when she joined her best friend and Valley College teammate, Gina Perez, in a softball team for the Sylmar Independent League.

The sophomore will take classes at Valley College until the end of the fall semester. Then she plans to move to go either Cal State Northridge or UC Santa Barbara.

Though not having an idea if she will play softball at the Division 1 level she feels that she has had her share of fun while playing for the Monarchs and at Monroe High School.

"I went out there and gave it my best," Arroyo said about the last inning of the last game at Canyons, the last one she might ever play. "It felt like my whole life flashed before my eyes, my softball life."

Valley's hit men ready for season finale

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

Sigi Arroyo will be wearing the same stirrups and tube socks he has worn all season for good luck when the Monarchs host rival Pierce College for the Western State season finale on Saturday.

Nick Lombard, for the same reason, will continue to keep his baseball hat away from any bed and not step on the foul lines.

And Paul Ramirez, though not having any superstitions, will try to keep awake after working a 12-5 a.m. shift at his job as truck loader for Frito L.A.

But only if they win, will it show that their bats have come a long way through the season despite having a 14-25, 8-14 record. It will also prove they are a better team than their rivals down the street at Woodland Hills.

There will be all sort of things going on in the minds of Valley College hitters, but perhaps Lombard will have more on his mind.

Lombard, a graduate of El Camino Real and former Calabasas-area little leaguer, has played with or against the members of the Pierce squad since he was introduced to baseball through playing T-ball in Canoga Park little league when he was a 4-year-old. Last year Lombard, a freshman who hits lead off for the Monarchs, was on Pierce's red-shirt squad where he was training towards a baseball career at the college level.

"I had (Valley College Coach Dan Shoemaker) work with me all summer," Said Lombard, who leads the team in



Julio Cortez/Valley Star

Right to left: Valley hit men Sigi Arroyo, Nick Lombard and Paul Ramirez each will be on hand on Saturday as

the Valley College baseball team finishes the Western State Conference season against Pierce College.

hits with 58. "I'm looking forward to that game."

"I used to play high school baseball with some of them," said Arroyo, who played with Pierce's Dave Lusk and Josh Miranda in 1996 at Monroe High School in North Hills. "We're still friends but each time we play against each other we hope that the other doesn't do good."

Ramirez, who hit two doubles in Tuesday's 4-3 loss against Bakersfield, also holds the Monarch rivalry pride against Pierce though not playing in the San Fernando Valley like the rest of his teammates.

"No one expected us to go this far," Ramirez, a Venice High alumni. "We

don't always hit so it's hard for people to have confidence in us."

The last time the two teams met was in April 27, when Valley College beat Pierce 3-2.

Though not being power hitters and only combining for six homeruns, Arroyo's, Lombard's and Ramirez' bats will help Valley College in their final game of the season, just like every other they have played for the Monarchs.

"Sigi has been just awesome," Head Coach Chris Johnson said about Arroyo, who has piled up 57 hits. "He is hitting third in the line-up which is the hardest spot to get a hit on."

This season Arroyo is hitting .407 with six doubles, two triples and a homerun.

Going on a 21-game hitting streak early in the spring is one of his many season highlights.

Johnson believes that Ramirez is a potential player. Ramirez, a freshman rightfielder, leads the team with seven doubles. He also has a lifetime best four homeruns while earning himself a .321 batting average.

Lombard has done his job as lead-off man for the Monarchs. He has walked 17 times and his .369 batting average has allowed him to score 29 runs for Valley College.

"Nick is a pleasant surprise," Johnson said. "He didn't play for a year so its amazing how he has come through for us."

More than a family affair

■ **Dionne Atkins participation in Valley College's 8-7 victory over Santa Monica was missed by her two favorite fans.**

By JULIO CORTEZ
STAR REPORTER

Dionne Atkins' husband, Johnny, and 3-year-old daughter, Le'Chelle, missed the 10-inning dogfight Valley College won 8-7 over Santa Monica last Saturday. They missed it but they were still supporting her, at least in their minds.

Atkins' most important fans didn't get to see her only hit of the game and her bases loaded, two-out catch in the top of the eighth inning to keep Valley College alive en route to their extra-inning victory.

"I was sad," Atkins said about her husband and daughter not being around while she was playing in her longest and most exiting softball game ever. "I'm just glad that we got through it and won the game."

During the three-hour game, Johnny was in Texas attending an electrician contract to make family ends meet and Le'Chelle was been watched by Dionne's mother Emma Williamson.

"My family is my support," said Atkins, who was 1-for-5 in the game. "My team gives me a lot of support but when I make a mistake (my family) always gives me that extra support."

Johnny, who has been Dionne's sweetheart since 1993 when they were seniors at Kennedy High School in Granada Hills, has supported her during their six-year acquaintance.

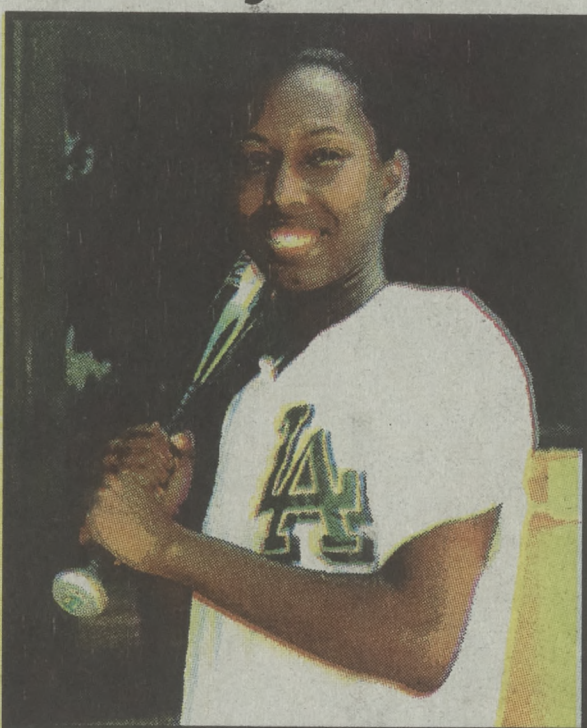
"He even waited for me when I was in boot camp," Atkins said about the beginning of her five-year interaction with the U.S. Navy reserves.

Atkins, who join the ball club three weeks before the beginning of the season, saw the Lady Monarchs improve to an 8-23, 6-12 record as they won their last home game of the season.

Though only being a freshman, Atkins will be retiring from Monarch softball. She hopes to begin an Air Force program with UCLA where she plans to become an ROTC officer.

"I really wish I could keep on playing," Atkins said. "I love softball, but I'm going to have like 18 units for my accounting major."

"She shows a lot of heart," leftfielder Christal



Julio Cortez/Valley Star

Dionne Atkins not only has to deal with a college education while playing softball, she also has to attend her husband and daughter.

Halvorson said. "It's amazing how she can extend herself that far and do that many things."

Atkins, a Kennedy High softball alumni, thinks that the Monarch softball team is the best she has been since she played little league at Mission Hills Recreational Center.

"I'm not afraid to get dirty," Atkins said. "Some of my previous teammates were afraid to get dirty but for this team, getting dirty is not a problem."

Working hard on the field is not the only thin Atkins has to deal with. Raising a 3-year-old child, attending to her 14-unit college education and planning her future role in the Air Force has been tough on her but not been enough to keep her away from doing them.

"She balances herself real well," Head Coach Jennifer Parker said. "She allows herself time to do everything she loves to do."

"She's a quality player," second baseman Karla Martinez said. "She goes up there with no fear. She's a really strong person because she has so many things to deal with, not just softball."

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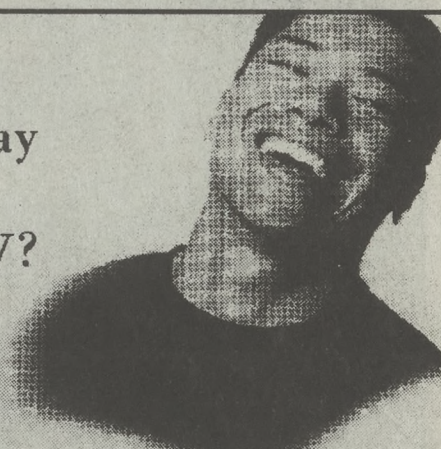
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